FROM NEIGHBOURHOOD TO CYBERHOOD
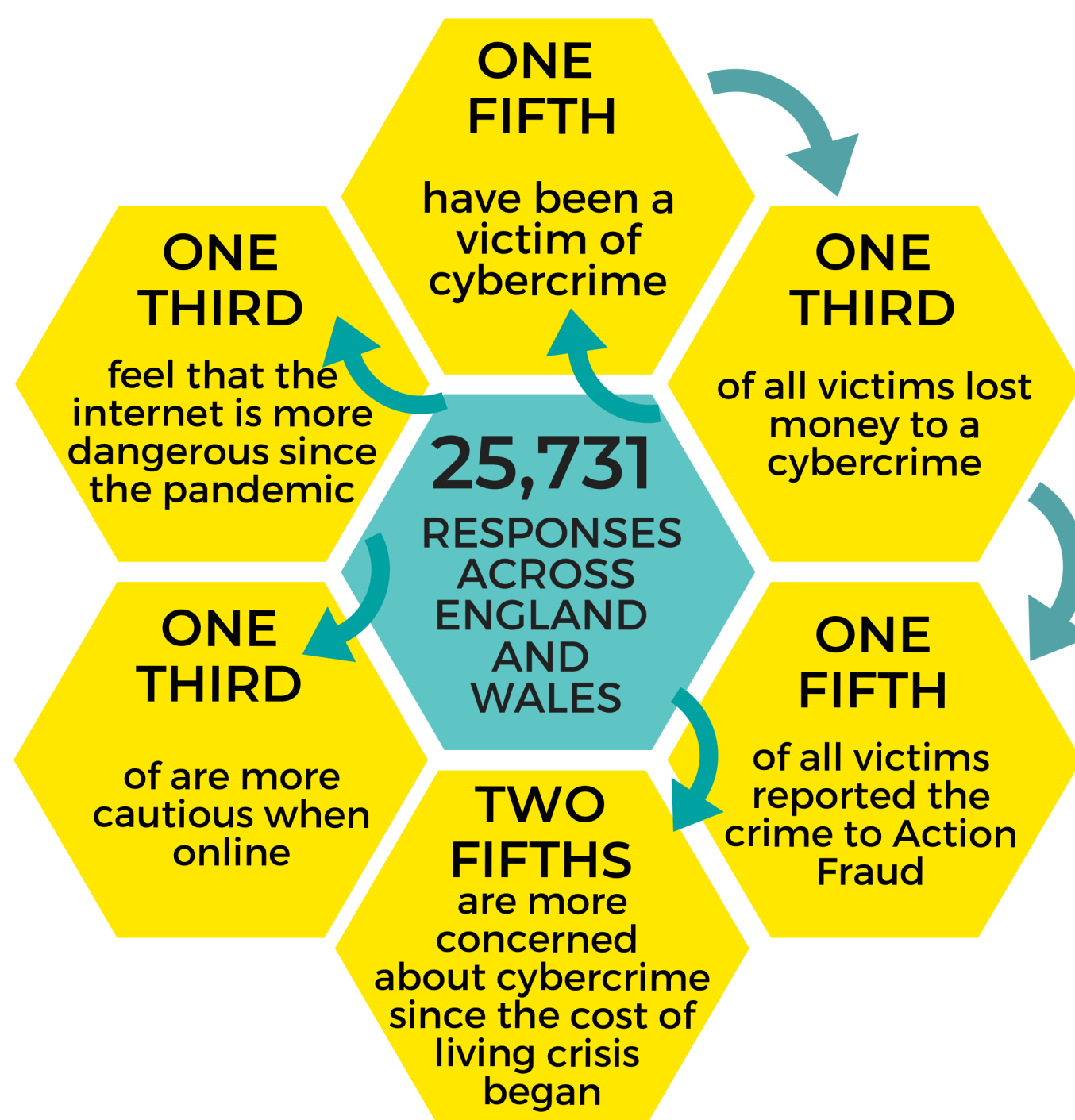# 2022 PERCEPTIONS OF CYBERCRIME IN THE UK

WHAT DO PEOPLE FEAR MORE, COMMUNITY-BASED CRIME OR CYBERCRIME?

As part of our ongoing Cyberhood Watch commitment to raising awareness of cybercrime threats and prevention techniques, we surveyed over 25,000 people (Neighbourhood Watch members and non-members) to find out more about their concerns, experiences and impact of cybercrime in the UK in 2022.

"Cybercrime is a major concern and a topic which is affects everyone's daily lives."

Countless agencies are working hard to tackle the myriad of different tools employed by scammers who prey on those who are simply trying to access goods and services online.

ONE FIFTH have been a victim of cybercrime

ONE THIRD feel that the internet is more dangerous since the pandemic

ONE THIRD of all victims lost money to a cybercrime

25,731 RESPONSES ACROSS ENGLAND AND WALES

ONE THIRD of are more cautious when online

TWO FIFTHS are more concerned about cybercrime since the cost of living crisis began

ONE FIFTH of all victims reported the crime to Action Fraud

The biggest issue to overcome is to expose the methods of the fraudsters, whilst at the same time equipping the public with the confidence to use the internet safely.

We have lots of advice available on our website ourwatch.org.uk – much of which has come from the National Cyber Security Centre and is updated regularly. Our sponsors, Avast have given us 5 cost-free tips for protecting yourself online which is explored on the final page of this document.

WHAT IS THE IMPACT ON VICTIMS OF CYBERCRIME?

62% lost up to £500

59% lost time sorting out the issue

42% felt foolish

"It's not just about financial loss; cybercrime also has a significant emotional impact. "

DO WE FULLY UNDERSTAND CYBER THREATS?

We asked people about specific types of cybercrime. Well-known threats like hacking were generally recognised, but worryingly only 13% knew about spearphishing and just 16% of people were aware of stalkerware.

When it comes to specific types of cyber attack, select all of the below you've heard of before:

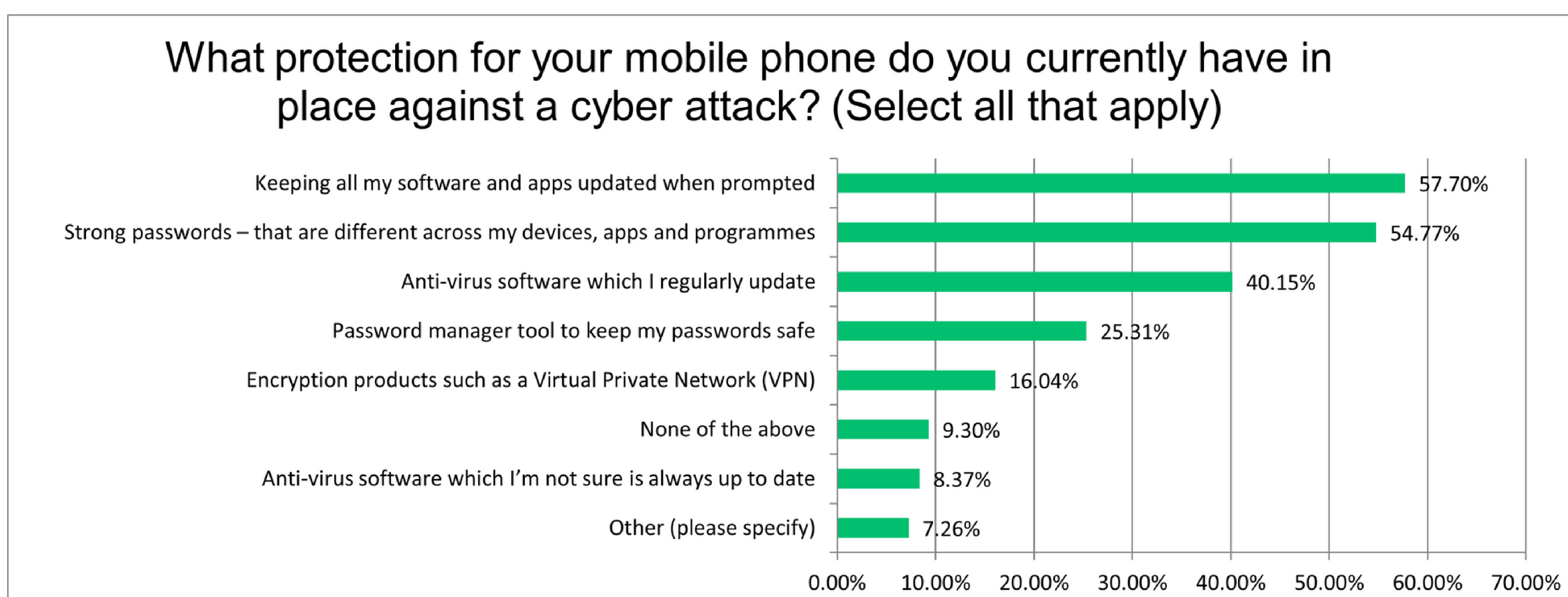| Type	Percentage
Hacking	92.18%
Phishing attack	90.88%
Malware such as a virus, Trojan or ransomware	90.38%
Spyware	79.14%
Cyber bullying or harassment	74.66%
Hack of a connected device e.g. a smart home device	55.84%
Password attack	52.88%
Stalkerware	16.05%
Spearphishing attack	13.04%
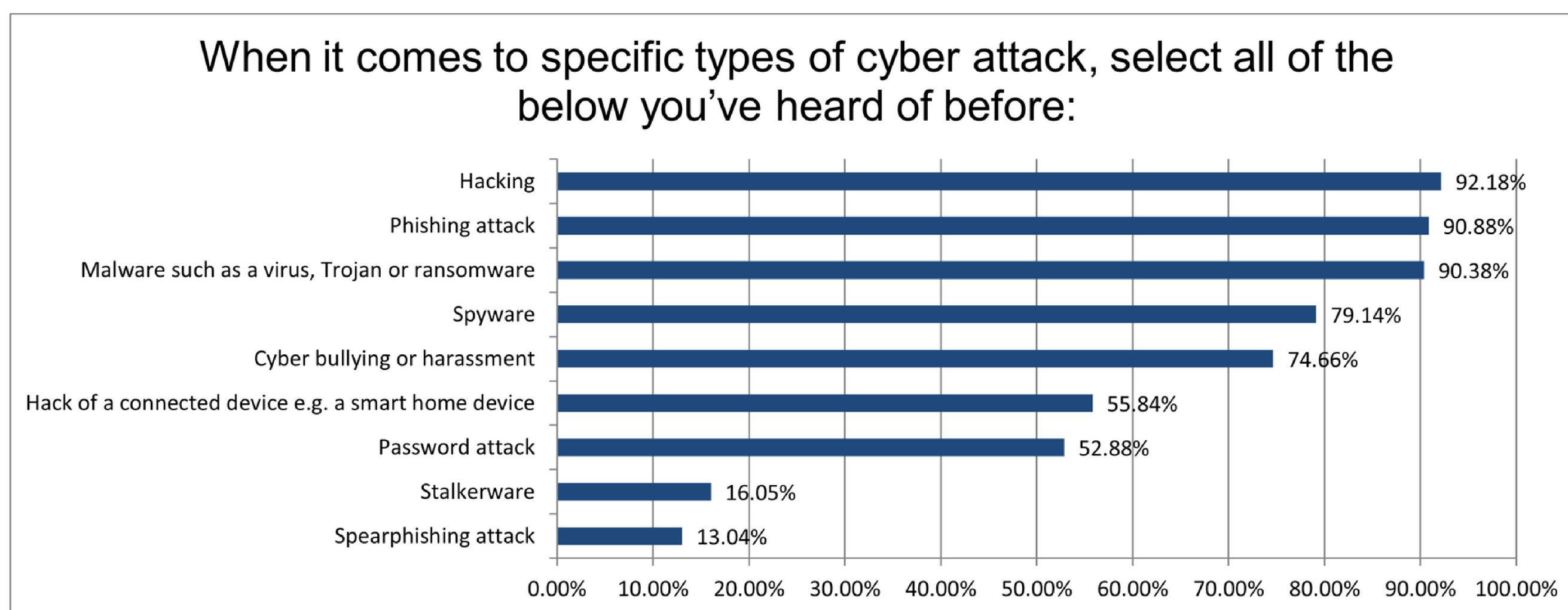
HOW ARE PEOPLE PROTECTING THEMSELVES?

Understanding how cyber attacks can happen and how to prevent them is key. Half of all respondents consider themselves to have a fair understanding of cybercrime with a further third having a good understanding. However, twice as many respondents have a low understanding compared to an excellent understanding.

For mobile phones, strong passwords and keeping applications and software up-to-date are the main ways people protect themselves against cybercrime. 40% are using anti-virus software which is regularly updated. Just 16% have a VPN or other encryption product. Around 10% have no protection whatsoever.

In the survey, respondents shared the types of activities they regularly carry out digitally. 71% of those we surveyed were over 55 years old, and 53% were retired, nevertheless many respondents are very fluent in using digital channels to complete much of their day-to-day admin tasks.

What protection for your mobile phone do you currently have in place against a cyber attack? (Select all that apply)

Type	Percentage
Keeping all my software and apps updated when prompted	57.70%
Strong passwords – that are different across my devices, apps and programmes	54.77%
Anti-virus software which I regularly update	40.15%
Password manager tool to keep my passwords safe	25.31%
Encryption products such as a Virtual Private Network (VPN)	16.04%
None of the above	9.30%
Anti-virus software which I'm not sure is always up to date	8.37%
Other (please specify)	7.26%

PROTECTING YOURSELF ONLINE DOESN'T HAVE TO BE COMPLICATED OR EXPENSIVE

The online threat landscape is constantly evolving, but there are hassle-free ways you can protect yourself without costing you time and money.

Top tips for a safer online experience from Avast

1 Install a strong antivirus across your devices - this is a very important first line of defence. You don't need to spend a fortune as Avast offers free, award-winning antivirus (AV) software for PC, Mac, Android and iPhone.

2 Ensure your computer and phone software is always up-to-date. Software updates often include security patches which are important for keeping your devices safe.

3 Use different passwords across your accounts so if one account is compromised, the rest are still secure. Prioritise creating a separate password for your email account using 3 random words, numbers and symbols (e.g. Award? Radi0C0ffee); and turn on two-factor authentification.

4 Change default passwords shipped with new devices. This is a relatively easy but effective way to improve the security of your internet-connected gadgets and home routers.

5 Get a password manager to help manage all your passwords and keep them secure. That way, you can choose hard passwords without having to remember them!

OURWATCH.ORG.UK/CYBERCRIME